Terms of Reference
Accessibility and Accommodations Fund

This one-time fund of $50,000.00 has been established by the Provost & Vice-President, Academic, to support direct financial costs associated with enhancing the accessibility of learning environments and experiences on campus, as well as meeting student accommodation requests that do not create undue hardship to the university.

Background

The province of Nova Scotia passed the Accessibility Act in 2017 which requires commitment and action to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility in post-secondary education. Several standards are under development including education.

The Student Accessibility Centre experienced a 57% increase in the number of students requiring accommodation.¹ This initiative is intended to create a barrier-free learning environment; while ensuring students get the instruction and learning materials they need to achieve success.

The goal of the fund is to support implementation of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL “... is a research-based set of principles to guide the design of learning environments that are accessible and effective for all.”²

Eligibility

The Student Accessibility Centre invites applications from Dalhousie faculty and staff. Applications must clearly demonstrate that financial costs are directly linked to enhancing the accessibility of learning environments and experiences on campus.

Demonstrating Linkage

When submitting your application, make sure to address the following:

- Will the proposal reduce or eliminate a barrier to access?
- Will the proposal result in greater participation by all students including those with learning, sensory, or mobility challenges?
- What is the scope/impact of the proposal? Initiatives should focus on multiple students as opposed to individual students.

Eligible Costs

- Administrative operating costs (including wage and fringe expenses; stationary and office supplies)
- Equipment costs including computer hardware and software; applications

¹ Assessed over a 5-year period.
Examples of Projects

- Closed captioning instructional videos
- Leadership/Career Development/Mentorship programs for students with disabilities

Procedure

- Applications will be reviewed upon receipt.
- The budget will be administered by the Student Accessibility Centre with input from an advisory committee.
- Approved proposals will initially be capped at $2,500.00. Additional funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis with scope and impact as the determining factors.
- If several applications are submitted from a single Dalhousie community member, the Committee reserves the right to rank these applications.
- The advisory committee reserves the right to consult with other colleagues when a specific expertise is required.
- An application does not guarantee funding.

For more information, please contact access@dal.ca